(c) whether Government would assure of commencing this work on a war-footing at least at this stage; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Cantonment Board Secunderabad have approved the estimates for reconstruction of the road culvert at Wellington Road near Laxminagar, Picket amounting to Rs. 9,75,000.00 vide their Resolution No: 17(5), dated 29.12.2003. Instructions have been issued to expedite the work.

Private participation in defence production

37. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Letters of Intent issued to private manufatcuring companies to produce Defence Products;

(b) total FDI in Defence sector since May, 2001, when it was opened for private participation; and

(c) the details of areas that are coered for private people to manufacture the Defence items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) 23 Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences have so far been issued to private companies for manufacturing various types of defence equipment.

(b) NIL

(c) The defence industry sector is open up to 100% for Indian private sector participation subject to licensing.

Participation of private sector in defence production

38. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are taken to increase private sector participation in defence production;